

## GLIMPSES OF LINCOLN

Tributes to the Martyr President's Character and Leadership—How He Pardoned a Soldier.

Within a few days the formal celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth will be observed. Many stories are being told about the martyr president and tributes paid to his character.

L. E. Chittenden, who was register of the treasury from 1861 to 1865 and a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln, now for the first time tells in full the story of "Lincoln and the Sleeping Sentinel," published by Harper & Bros., which has hitherto been known only in its bare outline. He speaks as one having authority, and with justice, for he bore an important share in the episode.

It was on a dark September morning in 1861, he informs us, that he was waiting on at his Washington office by a party of soldiers. They belonged to the Third Vermont regiment, then stationed at the Chain bridge, some three miles above Georgetown. One of their number, a youth of twenty-one, had fallen asleep at his post as sentinel. A hardy boy, not as yet inured to military life, he had found it impossible to keep awake for two nights in succession. He had been found by the relief sound asleep, had been convicted by a court martial and sentenced to be shot. With tears in their eyes, his comrades pleaded with Mr. Chittenden to use his influence and save the boy's life.

"He's as good a boy as there is in the army," said the leader, "and he is not to blame." Scott had never before been up all night in his life. He had been "all beat out" by his first experience. The second night he had succumbed to sheer physical exhaustion.

Mr. Chittenden's heart was touched. He determined to put young Scott in personal touch with President Lincoln. By using all his influence he succeeded.

This is how Scott himself told the story of the interview: "The president was the kindest man I had ever seen. I knew him at once by a Lincoln medal I had long worn. I was scared at first, for I had never before talked with a great man. But Mr. Lincoln was so easy with me, so gentle, that I soon forgot my fright. He asked me all about the people at home, the neighbors, the farm and where I went to school and who my schoolmates were. Then he asked me about mother and how she looked, and I was glad I could take her photograph from my bosom and show it to him. He said how thankful I ought to be that my mother still lived and how, if he was in my place, he would try to make her a proud mother and never cause her a sorrow or a tear. I cannot remember it all, but every word was so kind.

He had said nothing yet about that dreadful next morning. I thought it must be that he was so kind hearted that he didn't like to speak of it. But why did he say so much about my mother and my not causing her a sorrow or a tear when I knew that I must die the next morning? But I supposed that was something that would have to go unmentioned, and

so I determined to brace up and tell him that I did not feel a bit guilty and ask him wouldn't he fix it so that the firing party would not be from our regiment. That was going to be the hardest of all—to die by the hands of my comrades.

Just as I was going to ask him this favor he stood up, and he says to me, "My boy, stand up here and look me in the face." I did as he bade me. "My boy," he said, "you are not going to be shot tomorrow. I believe you when you tell me that you could not keep awake. I am going to trust you and send you back to your regiment. But I have been put to a great deal of trouble on your account. I have had to come up here from Washington when I have got a great deal to do, and what I want to know is how you are going to pay my bill."

There was a big lump in my throat. I could scarcely speak. I had expected to die, you see, and had kind of got used to thinking that way. To have it all changed in a minute! But I got it crowded down and managed to say:

"I am grateful, Mr. Lincoln. I hope I am as grateful as ever a man can be to you for saving my life. But it comes upon me sudden and unexpected like, I didn't lay out for it at all. But there is some way for me to pay you, and I will find it out after a little. There is the bounty in the savings bank. I guess we could borrow some money on the mortgage of the farm. There was my pay, which was something, and if he would wait until pay day I was sure the boys would help, so I thought we could make it up if it wasn't more than \$500 or \$600."

"But it is a great deal more than that," he said.

Then I said I didn't just see how, but I was sure I would find some way—if I lived.

Then Mr. Lincoln put his hands on my shoulders and looked into my face as if he was sorry and said: "My boy, my bill is a very large one. Your friends cannot pay it, nor your bounty, nor the farm, nor all your comrades. There is only one man in all the world who can pay it, and his name is William Scott. If from this day William Scott does his duty, so that, if I were there when he comes to die, he could look me in the face as he does now and say, 'I have kept my promise, and I have done my duty as a soldier,' then my debt will be paid. Will you make that promise and try to keep it?"

Scott did promise and did keep his promise. He soon earned the reputation of being the bravest man in his regiment, the faithfullest and the kindest. If any man were needed for the most exposed service, Scott was always eager to be called upon. If any other man were in trouble, Scott was his good Samaritan. If any soldier were sick, Scott was his willing nurse. He was ready to volunteer for any extra service or labor. Nevertheless he steadily refused promotion, saying that he had done nothing to deserve it.

The end came in March, 1862, near Yorktown. The federal forces were on one side of the James river, the Confederates on the other. General McClellan had ordered General Smith to assault and capture the works on the south bank. The Confederates, however, were too strongly entrenched. They drove their assaults back across the river. Scott was almost the first to reach the south bank, the first to

the rifle pits and the last to retreat. He was carrying one of his wounded comrades across the stream when the fire of the enemy was concentrated upon him. He staggered with his living burden to the shore and fell.

"He was shot all to pieces," said an eyewitness. "We carried him back out of the line of fire and laid him on the grass to die. But his strength was great, and such a powerful man was hard to kill." They carried him to a cot in a nearby tent. Just at daylight the word was passed that Scott wanted to see all the boys. They went into his tent and stood around his cot. His face was bright and his voice cheerful.

"Boys," he said, "I will never see another battle. I supposed this would be my last. I haven't much to say. You all know what you can tell them at home about me. I have tried to do the right thing. I am almost certain you will all say that. Then, while his strength was failing, his life ebbing away, and we looked to see his voice sink into a whisper, his face lighted up and his voice came out natural and clear as he said: 'If any of you ever have the chance I wish you would tell President Lincoln that I have never forgotten the kind words he said to me at the Chain bridge, that I have tried to be a good soldier and true to the flag, that I should have paid my whole debt to him if I had lived and that now, when I know that I am dying, I think of his kind face and thank him again because he gave me the chance to fall like a soldier in battle and not like a coward by the hands of my comrades.'"

Then he closed his eyes, crossed his hands on his breast, and that was all.

Richard Watson Gilder in his study of "Lincoln the Leader," published in the February Century, presents some interesting phases of Abraham Lincoln's character. Of his speech, writings and belief in God he says:

"Lincoln's style in speech and writing is the same sort of miracle that gave us the consummate art of Shakespeare, the uncollected actor; of Burns, the plowman, and of Kents, the apothecary's apprentice, son of a livery stable man. It is not easy to analyze a miracle, but in discussing the leadership of Lincoln it is interesting to find certain qualities in his literary style that are traits of his character and thus elements of his leadership.

"Notwithstanding that the country has been ransacked for every record of his public speech and every scrap of paper to which he put pen, there has been found from him absolutely nothing discreditable and little that can be criticized in the way of expression. Without the aid of any teacher he early learned to be moderate and reasonable in statement, so that on the part even of the obscure young politician there is a complete absence of that kind of public speech which is described in a passage he loved to quote, where it is said of the orator that 'he mounted the rostrum, threw back his head, shined his eyes and left the consequences to God.'"

"An intensely important feature of Lincoln's leadership would be omitted if nothing were said of the effect upon his thought and conduct of his belief in and conscious communion with an almighty, mysterious and benevolent power, concerning itself not less with human affairs than with the march of seasons and the sweep of constellations. The Deity was to him an ever present, ever regnant influence. There was nothing of theology or dogmatism in his religious opinions, but he lived in the spirit. The strange silence of the Almighty Sovereign perplexed him, and he sought with passionate eagerness to read the decrees of Providence in the unfoldings of events, sometimes taking definite action in accordance with his interpretation of divine indications. And always the belief in God was to him a challenge to singleness of purpose. To the all pure he lifted clean hands and a pure heart."

Mr. Gilder in closing his article says: "Let me close with the memory of a night of the spring of the year 1865, at the time of the blooming of lilacs, as says the wonderful poem. I was waiting in Philadelphia for Lincoln's funeral train to start, as it was my duty to accompany it to Newark. I had and have little desire to look upon faces from which the light of life is departed, but suddenly it came upon me that I had never seen the great president and must not let go by this last opportunity to behold at least the deserted temple of a lofty soul. To my grief I found it was too late. The police had drawn their line across the path in front of Independence hall. But my earnest desire prevailed, and I was the last to pass by the window and behold in a sudden dazzle of lights and flowers the still features of that face we all now know so well.

"Then I went my way into the night and walked alone northward to the distant station. Soon I heard behind me the wailing music of the funeral dirge. The procession approached. The funeral train moved out beneath the stars. Never shall I forget the groups of weeping men and women at the little towns through which we slowly passed and the stricken faces of the thousands who in the cities stood like mourners at the funeral of a beloved father. Thus, as came the dawn and the full day, through grieving states was borne the body of the beloved chieftain, while the luminous spirit and example of Lincoln, the leader of the people, went forth into the earth along the pathway of eternal fame."

Foul.

"Foul tactics," declared the halfback.

"What's the trouble now?" demanded the referee.

"I tried a kick for the stomach, but this fellow blocked it with his head."—Kansas City Journal.

# Make Your Old Age Secure

Prepare to dwell in ease midst peace and plenty, or to pass your time in traveling around the world as you please. How can you do it? Others are ready and willing to do it for you. They only want your co-operation to set the enterprise going. A few hundred dollars invested now will secure for you a large annual income in a few years. And you are guaranteed 6% per annum on your money during the development period.

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Does it not seem that it should be worth your time and trouble to investigate this matter? Don't frown at a thing just because it is new to you. Old propositions are too well cared for by men of large means to afford you any opportunity of obtaining more than 3 or 4 per cent on your money. Here is a proposition that bids fair to pay you more than 100 per cent, and it is safe.

Every dollar you invest is secured by real estate. The company's land is now worth twice the face value of all the preferred stock issued, and this stock is a first lien against the property.

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## SPECIAL AGREEMENT.

It is understood and agreed:

1st. That the ROCK ISLAND TROPICAL PLANTATION CO. will defray the necessary expenses of a committee in going to Mexico for the purpose of inspecting the property of the company; this committee to be chosen as follows:

One by applicants for stock residing in the three cities or vicinity.

One by applicants for stock not residing in the three cities or vicinity.

One by those holding stock in the company previous to this arrangement.

2d. That in case this committee does not find the proposition fully as good as it has been represented in the literature of the company all payments made on the shares of stock subscribed for in the above application shall be immediately returned to the applicant and the subscription cancelled.

## They All Come Back with the Same Story, and Yet "The Half Has Not Been Told"

The following opinions are taken from letters written by persons who have visited the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and the vicinity of Sarabia since October 15, 1908. Not one single knocker has yet been heard from:

George W. Hoagland of Kansas—"As I have had the pleasure of looking over some of your land on the Isthmus, I think it is a good investment for any one, either the poor man or the rich. I do honestly believe almost anything can be raised there, fruits, vegetables, corn, flowers."

W. R. Williams of Colorado—"I have been visiting and inspecting your lands on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, in the states of Vera Cruz and Oaxaca, Mexico, and can say that this is truly a wonderful country, and one where all tropical fruits can be raised successfully; also rubber, coffee, chocolate and many very valuable products."

W. H. Marlow of Livingston county, Missouri—"I have been a farmer all my life. Am 75 years old. Have also traveled a great deal. Have never seen any land yet that equals the land you are offering for sale."

D. M. Clark, M. D., of San Gabriel, Texas—"This is, in my honest opinion, the best country on earth. You showed me the richest land in the world and the finest climate imaginable. I saw growing there, rubber, chocolate, pineapple, oranges, lemons, limes, bananas, corn, rice, tobacco, and the most valuable forests on earth, plenty of good water, numerous wild deer, wild turkeys, monkeys and parrots."

W. R. Childress of Texas—"I believe you have the richest country on earth. I saw growing there oranges, lemons, coffee, rice, bananas, rubber, chocolate, potatoes, corn and many varieties of the finest hard and soft woods on earth, plenty of good water and a climate surpassed by none."

John McCormick of Kansas—"I think the Isthmus is one of the richest sections I ever saw. The possibilities for the American people are unlimited."

Dr. Genevieve V. Evans—"When I read your literature regarding the property I thought it too good to be true, but you do not begin to tell half the attractive facts concerning your property, and I believe it is the greatest opportunity for American brains, energy and money that can be found anywhere in the world."

Mary V. Sholey of Missouri—"We visited your lands on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and I truly believe that in a few years northern energy will transform this land into a veritable Garden of Eden."

B. F. Gilbert of Kansas—"I think it the richest and most productive land I have ever seen, and my honest opinion is that all the country needs is development and prospects are good for that, for many are going now and more as soon as possible."

B. F. Gilson of California—"Any one contemplating visiting Mexico should be all means visit the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and your lands. All this part of Mexico needs is American energy to bring it to the front in a short time."

W. P. Cook of Chillicothe, Missouri—"I have been over most all the United States. Must say that your land shown me is southern Mexico will produce greater quantities and greater varieties of products than any land I ever saw in my life."

J. M. Brown and A. E. Robinson of Ottawa county, Kansas—"We were prepared to see wonderful, but what we have seen surpasses anything we had thought possible."

H. Weaver of Morgantown, W. Va.—"The soil is exceedingly rich. The products were as fine as I ever saw. Taking all things into consideration, they are more valuable than can be grown any place else on the American continent."

Mrs. H. B. Severance of Kansas City, Mo.—"I have just returned from a trip to your land in Southern Mexico and can truthfully say Northern people who have not visited this land can have no idea of its wonderful beauty and vast resources. If I return within five years, I expect to see the garden spot of the world."

A. W. Stonum of Missouri—"The soil is very fertile, valuable crops are raised on the adjoining plantations and other conditions are as good as represented in your literature."

M. E. Kyler of Missouri—"Have just made a tour of inspection of your lands in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, and find the lands as good and I think if anything better than represented by your literature. The soil and climate, I believe, are unequalled anywhere on the North American continent. I believe capital invested in this land, under proper management will yield profitable returns."

W. H. Linville, of Beloit, Kansas—"I have just returned from an inspection trip to your lands on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico, and to state that the trip was a pleasant one is expressing myself too mildly. It was one round of pleasure from the time we left Kansas city until we returned. I found your lands all you claim for them, in fact much better than I had expected to find. The fertility of the soil is wonderful."

"We found growing on the plantations adjoining your lands the following products in abundance: Oranges, lemons, limes, bananas, grape fruit, coconuts, cocoa, rubber, coffee, and many other products. I found the land somewhat rolling, but hill tops, side-hills and

It will cost you nothing to investigate our proposition, and you need not place yourself under any obligation whatever, unless you become absolutely convinced that the investment is perfectly safe and will yield greater returns than anything else within your reach. But act at once, for by so doing you will make sure of not missing your opportunity and also hasten the success that is surely coming to us all. Call at office or address

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